

ciation, 1940.

(Fargo and Adams are useful to the public librarian as indicating what *could* be done within the school.)

Gray (editor). Reading and general education American Library Association, 1940. (This is an exploratory study and report by the U.S. Council on Education.)

It cannot be too strongly stressed that the new curriculum means in effect, two things to public librarians. Emphasis, as never before, is laid on the development of good library habits as part of a sound post-primary education. That is to say, the curriculum simply cannot be implemented in the manner that its framers hope without the active co-operation of the public library system. In affording this co-operation the public library system would be securing to itself a continuity of its efforts from the children's library to the adult library. Along with this will go a definite increase in the number of young adults availing themselves of library service and an increasing awareness in the community as a whole of the importance of librarianship and libraries.

BOOK REVIEWS

FII LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Recommendations for the establishment of a library and library service and the conservation and utilization of archives in the Colony of Fiji and islands of the Western Pacific High Commission, by C. R. H. Taylor . . . Suva, Govt. Print, 1946.

IN THIS 11,000 word report made at the close of 1944 on the request of the Fiji Government, Mr Taylor appears to have provided most complete and original recommendations for the inauguration of a library service in this island group whose 220,000 residents comprise besides Fijians, some 5,000 Europeans and approximately 100,000 Indians knowing several languages but using a lingua franca in which there is little printed literature.

The Fiji Government are to be congratulated on this timely attention to the place of cultural amenities in the developing Pacific area under their administration. A comparable development in the West Indies was initiated by a report from E. A. Savage of Edinburgh followed by strong financial assistance from the Carnegie Corporation.

Mr Taylor's report is prefaced by a section on the place of the library in the community, and proceeds to examine the existing service based on a Carnegie Library which has not been maintained, and the Suva Circulating Library. The

main recommendation is for a Central Islands Library which would in Suva at once serve as an administrative and educational reference source and as the headquarters for deposit collections and parcel service to outlying islands. Indian book purchases, it is suggested, would be 20% of the total allocation in which connection it is of interest that some 6,500 titles in eighteen languages were published in 1939. As the volume of available reading matter in Fijian is at present 'pitifully small,' the first necessity is to build up a supply of reading matter by a programme of published translations which would be distributed by the library.

While reading the recommendations in this section one cannot help feeling that here in New Zealand, with a more highly educated native population, very little if anything has been done for the Maoris in their special areas of settlement. The responsibility for this librarians must share with other administrative agencies but it is a matter which should be remedied.

The districts on the main island of Fiji would be served by periodic visits from a book truck, later supported by the erection of depository libraries. School and hospital service with request facilities complete the recommendations in this section. An important problem is the preservation of books in the tropics, the principal suggested remedies for which are air-conditioned stacks and a vacuum chamber for destruction of insects. Staffing would necessarily be more generous than in the past, in which connection it is of interest to learn that in the case of a Fijian assistant in the Carnegie Library 'it is regrettable that literacy . . . has not always been expected.'

The recommendations on Archives, which if carried out would give Fiji a lead in this respect over New Zealand; and Library-Museum relationship (arising from their present joint housing), if not of such particular concern to librarians nevertheless show the wide order of reference of this valuable and detailed report.

LEWIN, EVANS. *Best books on Australia and New Zealand: an annotated bibliography*. London, *The Royal Empire Society*, 1946.

(*Royal Empire Society bibliographies No. 13*). [8], 63 p. 4s.

The introduction to this bibliography 'intended for the use of students and others interested in Australia and New Zealand' points out that while not all entries are Best Books from literary or historical standards, their illustration of some special feature or event warrants their inclusion. The